

Serial No. 10/718,619

Attorney Docket No. 01-510

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****DEC 07 2006****REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-12, 14, 16, 20, 21, and 34-43 are pending. Claims 2, 13, 15, 17-19, and 22-33 have been canceled. Claims 3-10 and 34-36 have been withdrawn. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 11 and 13-20 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 13, 15, 17-19 have been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claims 1, 11, 14, 16 and 20, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The word "when" has been removed from claims 1, 11, and 14. Claim 20 has been clarified to recite that the percentage refers to the concentration of the first gas. Therefore, the rejection under section 112 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, and 11-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wada in view of Nakaya. Claims 2, 13, 15, and 17-19 have been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claims 1, 11, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 21, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The key feature of the present invention is that the pixels repair themselves by the application of a backward bias voltage. In the office action, the feature of self repair seems to be misunderstood. As described in the specification on pages 48, 49 and as shown in Figs. 14A, 14B, the upper electrode 140 flies upward by the backward bias voltage and goes back outward from the end portion of the defective portion K1, the portion from which the upper electrode 140

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has disappeared becomes larger than the radius of the defective portion K1. For this reason, the upper electrode 140 disappears at the end portion of the defective portion K1, the space between the lower and upper electrodes 120 and 140 becomes electrically open at this portion, and the defect does not advance any further into the surrounding area. Therefore, the application of the backward bias voltage is essential for the present invention. In the present invention, the thickness of the organic layer 130 and the upper electrode 140 is set such that the pixels can repair themselves by the application of the backward bias voltage.

Neither the Wada '833 reference nor the Nakaya '311 reference discloses or suggests pixels that repair themselves by the application of a backward bias voltage. Therefore, the claims are believed to be allowable over the combination of the Wada '833 reference and the Nakaya '311 reference.

Claims 37-43 are new. Claims 37-43 are drawn to the elected group II (organic semiconductor device) of the restriction requirement. Much like claim 1, claim 37 recites a self-healing feature, which is not shown or suggested in the cited references. Therefore, claims 37-43 are considered to be patentable over the references of record.

The restriction requirement was improper as to claims 3-10 and claims 34-36. Since claims 3-10 are dependent, they should not have been characterized as representing an independent invention. Note that in a proper combination/subcombination situation, the combination and the subcombination are *separately* claimed. Here, the combination is claimed in the form of dependent claims and is thus not separately claimed. In other words, claim 1 is

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generic to both group II and group III. Therefore, restriction between groups II and III is improper.

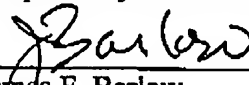
MPEP 802.01 requires that the inventions be distinct *as claimed*. Since claims 3-10 are dependent, the inventions of claims 3-10 are not distinctly claimed. While claims 34-36 are distinctly claimed, they are grouped with dependent claims 3-10 and thus should be examined with claims 3-10.

Although the applicants did not traverse the restriction requirement in their response of 26 July 2006, it is against Office policy to make improper restriction requirements, according to MPEP 804.01. An improper restriction requirement can nullify a double patenting rejection in a subsequent application. See MPEP 804.01. Therefore, the restriction requirement should be corrected.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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